GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4664
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
ONE TIME LICENSES SYSTEM FOR COMPUTERS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a): whether the Government has any plan to introduce one- time license system, for the use of computers and softwares in the country;

(b) whether the existing software patent system uniformly benefit the large portion of the software industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that only a few core software companies are making heavy operational surplus and profits in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial steps taken by the Government to curb the gross `Monopoly` in Software Research and Development as well in the software marketing?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): Government does not license the use of computers and software. In the case of software, the licensing agreements are executed between the vendor and the customer.

(b) and (c): Currently software is not patentable in India and is protected under the Copyright Act.

(d): No, Sir. Currently 37 companies have a annual export turnover in excess of Rs.100 crores, 60 companies between Rs.50 to 100 crores and 180 companies between Rs.10 to 50 crores.

(e): Does not arise.

(f): Government is not aware of any monopoly in Software Research and Development or in Software marketing.